Disinvestment of IA

3485. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have dropped their plans for disinvestment in Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating pumping in Rs. 5,000 crore to be invested in next five years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Pricing of shares in MUL

3486. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Suzuki Motor Corporation of Japan and Government have finalised the pricing of the shares for proposed rights issue in their joint venture Maruti Udyog Limited;

(b) if so, the agreement reached between the two countries; and

(c) by when the agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, do not arise.

Identification of PSUs for non-disinvestment

3487. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some PSUs which have been identified not to be disinvested;

(b) if so, the names of the PSUs; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) On 16th March, 1999 for the purpose of disinvestment, the Government classified the PSUs into "strategic" and "non-strategic" categories. It was decided that the strategic public sector enterprises would be those in the areas of:

Arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipment, defence aircrafts and warships.

Atomic energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radioisotopes to agriculture, medicine and non-strategic industries)

Railway transport.

All other public sector enterprises were to be considered non-strategic. The declared policy of the Government is to bring down Government equity in non-strategic PSUs to 26% or lower, in the generality of cases. However, in cases of PSUs involving strategic considerations, Government will continue to retain majority holding. In keeping with this policy, no disinvestment in "strategic sector" is anticipated. In addition, it has been decided that in respect of IOC, ONGC and GAIL, Government shareholding would not be reduced below 51%. It has also been decided that there is no need for disinvestment in OIL.

Sale of NALCO to foreign investor

3488. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chairman of a French Aluminium giant has expressed interest for holding a stake in NALCO;

(b) the recommendations of Disinvestment Commission in respect of selling NALCO's shareholding to international investors;

(c) the percentage of shareholding of Government in NALCO; and

(d) who are the other groups of shareholders?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Expressions of Interest for acquiring a stake in NALCO have not yet been sought. Therefor, there is no question of anybody having filed an Expression of Interest for holding stake in NALCO at this stage.

(b) As regards international investors, the Disinvestment Commission has recommended a GDR issue of 15% of NALCO's shareholding at an appropriate time depending on the market conditions after capital restructuring.